

# One Day Monthly

November 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

## Finding Your School *Where Will You Go to College?*

*This is the third article in a series by Lorraine Mahan about preparing for life after high school. The previous two articles on "Finding Yourself" and "Finding Your Major" were featured in the September and October issues of the One Day Monthly.*

Welcome to the on-track life adventure called "going to college."

After spending some time considering your values, personality, talents, and interests, now you are ready to choose the school you will attend for the next few years. Too scary, you say? Too much at stake? Feeling that if you make a bad choice you will ruin your future? Don't hide your head under a pillow--help and encouragement are available. It is a long journey, but you can make it if you pray, prioritize, research, visit, and apply.

### Pray

First, as with any decision, talk it out with God. Tell Him your fears and worries. Ask for His help and guidance. Request what you want, then submit the decision to what He wants for you. Be specific.

When I was a senior, I was accepted at a college 1,100 miles from home, for which I had no money to attend. I listed the specific problems to God. Within a month they were all resolved and I was on my way.

### Prioritize

Make a list of the most important aspects of your new school, then prioritize your top three. Do you want to travel far from home, or is staying in-state non-negotiable?

Perhaps you don't care what the campus looks like or you might be longing for a beautiful space. Do you want to live on campus or will you live at home? If financing is an issue, then choose a college that is well-endowed and generous with financial aid. Cold weather or hot? Small town or big city? Christian or state school? Large university

or small, intimate campus? These and many other options should be considered and sorted by importance. With over 3,000 four-year colleges in the United States to choose from, and with brochures and websites to make every one of them seem attractive,

you must have a plan of attack or the information will overwhelm and confuse you. Remember: you can't have it all, so pick what is most important.

Here's one example of how it can work. My son wanted to be a doctor, but he had limited finances. His priorities were a college that: 1) was generous with financial aid, 2) had a high

success rate for medical schools accepting their undergraduates, and 3) was in-state, so he could save on travel expenses. He chose the University of Dallas and was not disappointed.

### Research

Investigate schools in detail according to your top three priori-

*(Continued on page 3)*



Nothing ignites your excitement for college more than visiting a campus. Photo by Lorraine Mahan

### Special points of interest:

- Finding the Right College
- Generation Joshua
- Homeschool Handyman
- Teen Court
- Student Achievements

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- Student Dreams 4

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## Too Young for Politics?

"We know that not every person is called to enter the political arena, but every person should be a leader who is willing to stand up for what is right, wherever they are called to serve. To that end, Generation Joshua exists." These words from the Generation Joshua website spell out the beliefs behind this national organization.

One Day Academy has partnered with a local Generation Joshua club in Williamson County, whose purpose is "to challenge teens to stand up for what is right, to grow in their own beliefs, and to learn about how they can make

a difference in their communities and nation." The local club has geared up for the election season.

"Our plan for October is to find a local candidate(s) that has conservative Christian values, and help out where he [or she] needs us. This could mean different things, such as going door to door with fliers, putting up campaign signs, stamping envelopes that go out to local residents, etc.," said Harlan Kotzitz, student president of the Williamson County Chapter of Generation Joshua. Harlan said his chapter has 12 students participating.

Generation Joshua is founded on the principles of the book, *The Joshua Generation*, by Mike Farris. Harlan said, "The basic premise behind the organization is [for] teenagers to become aware of what goes on in the government so that when they got older, they would vote wisely and impact the political realm for Christ."

If you are interested in joining Generation Joshua, or would like to start a chapter in your county, contact Rhonda Hensley at momsthebomb2010@gmail.com.

*Justin Movalli*

# Homeschool Handyman's Corner

## Teaching Your Children Basic Homeowner Skills

### *This Month: Testing Garage Door Openers*



While garage door opener maintenance is no secret, it is often ignored by the homeowner or renter. Photo by Emily Peisker

*"These devices require testing and maintenance to operate safely and reliably."*

The average home in our area has a two- or three-car garage, and the majority of these have a motorized door opener. Chances are that your house has at least one garage door opener. These devices require testing and maintenance to operate safely and reliably. While garage door opener maintenance is no secret, it is often ignored by the homeowner or renter. For the sake of your loved ones and perhaps your property, you should perform at least the basic safety checks associated with garage door openers. The bonus here is that most children are fascinated by noisy, moving objects, so your homeschoolers may be eager to learn about door openers and help test them.

You should explain to your kids that in case of power failure or opener malfunction, the garage door can still be opened by hand. There is always an emergency pull cord on the overhead rail where the door attaches to the opener. Pulling down on this cord decouples the door and allows it to be moved freely. If adjusted properly, the door should be fairly easy to

move up and down because a large spring or springs act as a counter-balance to the door weight, much like an elevator. This might be a good science topic to research and share with your homeschooler.

Modern door openers have at least two safety systems to minimize injury or property damage. If your opener is rather old, it may not have these features and you should seriously consider getting a new unit. First is the sensor near the floor, which stops the door from traveling down if the safety beam is broken. The intent of this sensor is to prevent injury in case a person or animal should be in the path of the closing door. Second is a force limit sensor which stops the opener when it is applying too much force in the normal range of travel. This feature can sense a mechanical obstruction which might otherwise be crushed by the moving door. Both of these safety features should be checked per your opener manual. It's very easy and you will probably want some help (one of your kids).

Lubrication of both door and opener is also recommended and

should be done per instructions in the manuals. An older child could perform this safely with supervision and would probably enjoy it.

One remaining maintenance item is to check the spring(s), first for signs of impending failure (cracks or twists), then for proper balance. When decoupled from the opener, the door should stay at the halfway open position if the springs are adjusted properly. If the door is hard to move or if something looks amiss, you should probably call a garage door company to inspect and adjust as needed.

Repairs are another topic, since eventually the door and the opener will have problems and need to be fixed. Some garage door repairs can be tackled by a handy homeowner, but others may need professional help.

More information on garage door openers can be found on my website at [www.handyhomeowner.us](http://www.handyhomeowner.us).

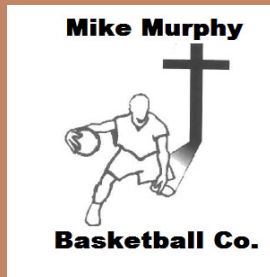
*Jim Peisker*

*jim@handyhomeowner.us*

*Jim is a homeschool dad who has worked 29 years as an electrical engineer; he has been fixing stuff all of his life.*

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## Finding Your School

(Continued from page 1)

ties. Start with your parents. Ask what schools they attended. What were the positives and negatives? Do they think their school would be a good fit for you? Extend this inquiry to older siblings or any teachers or family friends that you think may be helpful. Now, expand still further to internet research. It is easy to find college websites and gain access to abundant information--just remember to look specifically for answers to your three priority questions.

To make the research most useful, create a chart where you can record your findings.

### Visit

You can't judge a book by its cover; you can't judge a school by a brochure or website. Being on campus means talking with real people, observing real classes, eating real cafeteria food (!), and experiencing the "feel" of the campus and the city. Every school has a personality. What may look good on paper may rub you like sandpaper in person. There are many things that a website will never reveal--do you know which Texas

school constantly smells like cooked cabbage?!

Visit your top two choices in your junior year or by October of your senior year. If you wait until later, you have already missed some early deadlines for both acceptance and scholarships.

Check the school's website for special college visit days, or contact the admissions counselor for other optimum dates to visit. This is a great time to combine your information gathering with an interview. An interview helps the admissions counselor to match a face and personality with your written application, transcript, and test scores.

### Apply

There is so much to be said about the steps to college admission that only an introduction will be given here. At least, apply to your top two colleges. Here are the basics:

- Create a resume. Starting in ninth grade, keep a record of details and dates for jobs, internships, extra-curricular activities, community service, awards, and honors.
- Obtain or have parents create a transcript of high school classes and credits.

- Complete the application form and essay(s) for each college. The Texas Common Application can be completed and submitted online to any Texas public university ([www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)).
- Take the required college aptitude test: the SAT ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)) or ACT ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)). Request that the scores be sent to the colleges where you have applied. Many students prepare for these by taking classes and/or by taking the test more than once to obtain a higher, more competitive score.
- If not exempt, take the Texas required TSI assessment test, which is requested by your particular college. These go by names such as: COMPASS, ACCUPLACER, THEA, or ASSET.
- Get any required reference letters from teachers or counselors. One or more references are often requested by colleges. Give teachers/counselors at least two weeks to submit a questionnaire or letter of reference for you. Supply them a stamped, self-addressed envelope, as well as a copy of your resume, so they know more about

you. Include the application due date and any special instructions.

- Mail (or pay online) the application fee required by each college to which you apply.
- Ask your parents to complete and submit the FAFSA ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)) soon after January 1 of your senior year. This qualifies you for any type of financial aid through the college, whether grants, loans, or scholarships.

A final word: when you are in the midst of the college application process, you may feel as if you are paddling a canoe across Niagara Falls. Take heart! Many, many others have felt this way, yet ultimately found themselves landing on a great college campus, learning, succeeding, and making friends. It really can be the best time of your life!

Next month: Finding Your Career  
*Lorraine Mahan helped her four children find their way to: Trinity University (San Antonio), the University of Dallas (Irving, Texas), Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches), and Christ for the Nations Institute (Dallas).*



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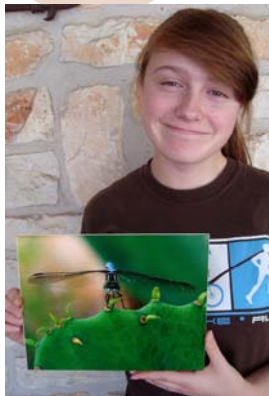
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### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Student and adult volunteers gather at a recent Williamson County/YMCA Teen Court training. Photo by Justin Movalli



# Announcements

- The **November 15 deadline** is quickly approaching for the **2011 NASA High School Aerospace Scholars** program. This free program offers a weeklong camp at the Johnson Space Center to eligible students who successfully complete online assignments. Contact Patti Ashley at [p.ashley@onedayacademy.com](mailto:p.ashley@onedayacademy.com) or go to <http://aerospacescholars.jsc.nasa.gov/HAS/>
- The One Day Academy **2011 Yearbook is now on sale!** Yearbooks are \$45 until 12/1; you can pay a \$25 deposit to secure your book. Contact [s.peisker@onedayacademy.com](mailto:s.peisker@onedayacademy.com).
- **Ad space is available in the yearbook** for honoring your graduating student or their extracurricular organization. We also welcome business ads. Affordable rates: **deadline is November 15.** [s.peisker@onedayacademy.com](mailto:s.peisker@onedayacademy.com)
- If you own a business, consider sharing the news with other homeschoolers. The **One Day Academy Business Directory** is offering yearlong listings at a special introductory rate. Contact Susan Peisker at [s.peisker@onedayacademy.com](mailto:s.peisker@onedayacademy.com) for more information.
- Save the dates! The 2010-11 One Day Academy **Spelling Bee** is scheduled for Saturday, January 8. The 2010-11 One Day Academy **Academic Fair** is slated for Saturday, January 15. The winner of the Bee advances to the regional competition for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Academic Fair participants also have the opportunity to advance to regional events. Go to: <http://onedayacademy.com/event-calendar/>.

## You Be the Judge

### Students Volunteers Serve in Teen Court

"Court is in session." The case begins, but this is not a court situation such as what one might see on Judge Judy. In this case, students aged 13-17 decide on a sentence for a fellow student aged 10-17 who has pleaded guilty on a Class C Misdemeanor charge. This is Teen Court.

This Teen Court's official name is Williamson County/YMCA Teen Court. I had the honor to speak with local Teen Court sponsor and founder Judge Edna Staudt at a recent training session. She said why we have and need a Teen Court is "to develop leaders for the next generation."

It's a win-win for both the student volunteers and the defendants. Student volunteers learn how to serve on a jury, fill the role of bailiff or clerk, or represent the defendant or the state as an attorney

in an actual sentence hearing. Student offenders who complete the requirements of their sentence have the incident removed from their police record.

One of Judge Staudt's most memorable cases involved a student who had been found playing with matches in the park, almost causing a huge forest fire. He pleaded guilty for disorderly conduct and went to Teen Court, but he got his act together and was able to help in his community.

The Williamson County/YMCA Teen Court, in its fourteenth year, meets twice a month at the Williamson County Annex. Teen Court is run by volunteers, many of whom are homeschooled. Training is provided; students aged 13-17 qualify to serve.

One Day Academy student and Teen Court volunteer Sam Hoot-

man said, "A lot of people see the court [system] from the defendant seat or as an unfair ruling group. We need to know this is one of the best court systems in the world."

Ross Tanner, an ODA student in his first year of Teen Court, said, "There are cases about everything from small theft to traffic violations. It is a great opportunity to get involved with the community."

For information on the Williamson County/YMCA Teen Court, go to <http://www.ymcagwc.org/> and click on Teen Court under Specialty Programs.

The Teen Court concept is employed in many courts throughout Central Texas and across the nation. Consult your city or county government for information on a Teen Court in your community.

Justin Movalli

## Winning Awards, Pursuing Dreams

Two One Day Academy students have had some "dreams come true" recently.

Clare Trent's photo, "Dragonfly, San Antonio, Texas," placed in the top 10 of 3,046 entries, receiving Tier I status, in the annual National Association of Nature Photographers competition. In addition to earning her a monetary award, Clare's photo will be showcased at NANPA's National Summit in March 2011, and she will be recognized on the organization's website and in its journal. Clare also won an award for another photo earlier this year in the regional Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event.

Kelsey Johnson traveled to Hervey Bay on the eastern coast of Australia in September to take part in whale research for The Oceania Project and Southern Cross University. She was part of a team of nine that spent a week on a boat recording whale locations, photographing and identifying the whales, listening to their songs, and entering computer data for the two organizations. Kelsey, who hopes to attend Texas A&M University next year to study marine biology, raised the money for the trip by saving her paychecks and conducting fundraisers with the help of her family.

